

Principles Checklist

This checklist includes all of the district, school, and parent involvement principles found in this book. As you review your character education initiative, try using this handy checklist to check off principles already present in your initiative and highlight those that still need to be included.

District Principles

- ☐ 1. Character education requires deliberate planning and implementation.
- ☐ 2. A district office committee directs the districtwide character education initiative.
- ☐ 3. A district character education action plan defines the goals and objectives of the district's character education initiative.
- ☐ 4. The district and its schools base character education initiatives on data.
- ☐ 5. The district office and schools share a common character language.
- ☐ 6. The district Master Plan includes the character education initiative.
- ☐ 7. The district character committee and the district character coordinator work with individual schools to ensure character education develops and grows.
- ☐ 8. The district office coordinates regular staff development in character education for school and district staff.
- ☐ 9. Sufficient, continued district funding makes school character education initiatives possible.
- ☐ 10. The district office ensures district-level and school staffs have the time they need to implement character education initiatives.

- ☐ 11. Curriculum coordinators identify connections to character education, or “teachable moments,” in their subject matter.
- ☐ 12. Service-learning connects with character education at the district level.
- ☐ 13. The positive behavior initiative incorporates character education.
- ☐ 14. Parent involvement strengthens the district’s character initiative.
- ☐ 15. A districtwide character education newsletter highlights effective strategies and successful schools.
- ☐ 16. Partnerships with businesses and community organizations support character activities and expand character development into the community.
- ☐ 17. Visual character displays represent a clear direction of the district initiative.
- ☐ 18. The district recognizes schools with exemplary character education initiatives.
- ☐ 19. Periodic infusions of new strategies revitalize the character education initiative.
- ☐ 20. District public relations and news coverage highlight the character education initiative.

School Principles

- ☐ 1. All adults in the school are committed to modeling and teaching good character.
- ☐ 2. A committee representing all stakeholders directs the school’s character education initiative.
- ☐ 3. A character education action plan is an integral part of the school improvement plan.
- ☐ 4. The core of the character education initiative focuses on relationships.
- ☐ 5. Character education is connected to the curriculum; teachers of all subjects take advantage of “teachable moments” that relate to character.

- ☐ 6. The character education efforts are clearly visible throughout the school.
- ☐ 7. Morning meetings put character education into practice by encouraging adults and students to share and respect each other's social and emotional needs.
- ☐ 8. Morning announcements reinforce the character education initiative.
- ☐ 9. Partnerships with businesses and communities support school and community character-building efforts.
- ☐ 10. School assemblies emphasize and recognize good character.
- ☐ 11. A positive behavior initiative supports the character education initiative.
- ☐ 12. Service-learning and reflection are a part of the school's character education initiative.

Parent Involvement Principles

- ☐ 1. Effective school-parent communication facilitates the character education process.
- ☐ 2. Parents/volunteers are trained to promote the character initiative throughout the school.
- ☐ 3. The parent involvement program includes parent forums, school social activities, volunteerism, and parent education workshops.